



SIERRA CLUB
IDAHO CHAPTER

RIDGELINES

Fall 2023 | Ridgelines is published annually by the Idaho Chapter of the Sierra Club, and is free to all our members.

An Action-Packed, Fun-Filled, Year Of Growth At The Idaho Chapter!

Where to begin? The Idaho Chapter Sierra Club has been hard at work all year fighting for equitable solar, salmon and grizzly recovery, and access to the outdoors for all! To do this, we've grown our staff team by bringing on a new Organizer and a brand new Wildlife & Lands Coordinator, who both are building up our capacity and working with our supporters, members, and volunteers to continue growing our grassroots movement for climate justice in Idaho! Ready to learn more about the cool stuff we've been up to? Read on!

Outdoors For All: We're On A Roll!

In just 2023, we've held approximately 14 Outings, spread across the Treasure Valley and the Palouse! Included in these Outings have been a range of activities—snowshoeing, biking, camping, hiking, caving, and more—and we were even able to offer a Wilderness First Aid Training Course at low or no cost so our supporters can feel prepared to get outside safely. We've also grown our team of Outing Leaders for both our general Outings and our OUTdoors Idaho LGBTQ+ Outings! We can't wait to keep up this momentum into 2024 and meet lots of new friendly faces along the way!



Your Idaho Chapter Won National Awards!

Volunteer leaders from Idaho traveled to Chicago this fall to accept hard earned National Awards for the amazing work they do at our local chapter.

Al Poplawsky, Jenna Duffin, and Nicholas and Nikita Thomas each earned National recognition for their service and leadership. THANK YOU for all you do for our environment and communities in Idaho! Awards were presented by Sierra Club's Executive Director Ben Jealous and Sierra Club President Allison Chin (pictured here). **Our Chapter also earned this year's Chapter Strong Award!**



From left to right: Allison, Al, Ben, Nicholas, Nikita

Fighting for the Future of Idaho Solar!

Lisa Young, Chapter Director

It was a BIG year for the movement for fair and affordable rooftop solar in Idaho, and Idaho Sierra Club was at the forefront the whole way.

After years of attacks on rooftop solar from different utilities across the state, this year we were faced with the biggest and most consequential cases in front of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission (PUC), in which Idaho's largest electric utility Idaho Power requested to drastically slash compensation rates to rooftop solar owners for the excess power they share back to the grid and raise fixed charges on all customer bills.



If approved, these changes would make rooftop solar much less affordable to local residents—at a time when we should be *expanding* access to this important, locally-owned, clean energy resource.

Knowing what was at stake, we fought back—hard.

We mobilized hundreds of petition signatures and public comments to the PUC, hours of public testimony at PUC hearings, Letters to the Editor and Opinion Editorials, coverage from multiple press outlets, and powerful, creative public actions from our youth team, the Idaho Climate Justice League.

We called out the myriad benefits of locally-owned rooftop solar power, from local jobs to lower power bills to more resilient electric grids. **On top of that, add in the ability for local residents to take back their power—literally—and start changing our energy sources immediately to address the climate crisis, while big corporate utilities continue to drag their feet and promise to wean off fossil fuels *decades* from now.**

We also called out the disproportionate impact these changes would have on low-income and BIPOC communities across Idaho, who continue to face the heaviest effects from climate change and who deserve the greatest benefits from the emerging green economy.

These particular PUC cases are coming to a close soon, but **this will not be the end of our fight for local, affordable solar power in Idaho.** We'll be leaning into the EPA's Solar For All program next year to bring more rooftop solar and Community Solar to low-income and disadvantaged communities across Idaho. **Stay tuned for opportunities to get involved!**



Protecting Idaho's Wildlife & Lands

Julian Matthews, Wildlife & Lands Coordinator

Over the past couple of months, I have been working on the Lower Snake River Dam breaching efforts, and as part of the **"All Our Relations: Snake River Campaign"** tour we were one of the sites that was part of this journey. We had a **Free the Snake Flotilla** at the end of September at the Hells Gate State Park, south of Lewiston, Idaho. **We had a great turnout, good food, and had many canoes, kayakers and other water craft on the water of the Lower Granite Reservoir.** Despite a little bit of rain, we had a good time with many great speakers, tribal drummers from three Tribes, and prayers and blessings by Tribal Elders. There were approximately 80 attendees at the Flotilla and a great time was had by all!

We also helped host a screening of **Covenant of the Salmon People** in Boise, which was a huge success and included **special guest Shannon Wheeler**, Nez Perce Tribal Leader, Chairman, and Executive Producer of the film!

Another critical area of our work is connecting with other groups who are pushing to protect waterways, and I have been working with the Mekong Riverkeepers who are working to protect the Mekong River in Vietnam from detrimental dams being placed on that river. **The event entitled, "From the Mekong to the Columbia"** was held at the Native Center at Portland State University. Many Tribal representatives attended, along with members of the four Treaty Tribes of the Nez Perce, Yakama, Warm Springs.



At the end of October and early November, we held showings across the state and region of the **"Return of the Grizzly"** film that shows the history and current status of grizzlies in Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming. We're pushing for the protection of grizzlies in the Northern Rockies area to ensure **these critical species are able to make a real recovery** by mobilizing comments to the US Fish and Wildlife Service to urge them *not* to remove grizzlies from the Endangered Species list!

I also have been working on the issue of wolf recovery in Idaho and other states on the wolf management plans which have been incredibly destructive to the wolves that were recently reintroduced by the USFWS and the Nez Perce Tribe. **Currently, the Endangered Species Act authorizes the state of Idaho to manage its delisted species, and this has been detrimental to delisted species such as wolves, as the state implements tactics to kill wolves and reduce their populations to bare minimum numbers.** As a Nez Perce Tribal member, I've also been working to push the Department of the Interior to allow for Tribal management of delisted species.

Stay tuned for ways to volunteer and get involved!



An Action Packed Year for the Climate Justice League!

Vienne Aberle, Communications & Advancement Coordinator

The Idaho Climate Justice League's youth activists have had lots of success this year in advocating for climate action in their communities. From performing to protesting, to hosting community events and testifying at a public hearing, these students continue building grassroots power and inspiring change and action, all while developing their own talents and skills. **Who better to hear from on some of these experiences than the students themselves?**

CJL Takes Center Stage

Hannah Amick, Timberline High Graduate

Earlier this year, I had the absolute pleasure of being a part of CJL's play at Storyfort. This experience was invigorating and so much fun. It was quite a change of pace for CJL; although we did tend to incorporate a lot of imagination and artistry within our climate advocacy, we hadn't yet been a part of such a performative event. I was cast as the primary villain, Captain Carbon, a corrupt evil overlord who was responsible for climate change, pollution, deforestation, etc. It was so entertaining to watch as the other members of CJL and myself adopted the roles and truly added our own twists to the characters, making the play as a whole feel very personal, showcasing our own connections with the movement. Leading up to our final performance, we had a few rehearsals and I grew very nervous but excited to execute on the stage.

When we arrived at Storyfort, my nerves were almost instantaneously alleviated. **The people within that room provided us with so much warmth and assurance and the reception to the play was wonderful.** I am so glad I had the opportunity to be in the play, and I'm looking forward to seeing any future performances!



Summer of Solar

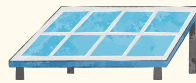
Melissa Eyer, Skyview High Senior

Over the summer, the members of Climate Justice League worked together on several projects to advocate for affordable, locally-owned solar. Having recently joined CJL, these projects were the perfect way for me to get acquainted with the group and its mission. **I had the opportunity to design the cover art of our climate justice zine, help write a powerful Op-Ed to Idaho Power's CEO Lisa Grow with several other CJL members, and participate in our end-of-the-summer event where we all got to express our demands for climate justice and clean energy through a fun, interactive chalk art mural.** During the event, several CJL members shared poems they had written about climate justice and a few members read aloud our published Op-Ed. We finished with powerful chants on the "People's Mic" which allowed everyone in attendance to join us in our demands for affordable solar—demands we will continue to advocate for until they are met!



Zines & Art & Community Connection

Sherlyn Mesillas Becerra, Capital High Senior



My face burned against the August weather. Cherished friends, family, and community members patiently waited for me to begin. I stood on the table, ready to share my poem. Two months prior, our team of creatives at CJL banded together for an exciting endeavor: crafting a climate zine! We brainstormed all sorts of clever ideas, but the idea of a scrapbook-inspired zine always came back. So, we invited the public to write powerful poems and design intimate artworks. We also pasted our own inspiring photos—scrapbook-style. On that Saturday morning of the event, we doodled solar panels in chalk on the sidewalk. We smeared our clothes as we laughed at clumsy artistic skill. I felt this warm atmosphere through the evening. Especially when we did the People’s Mic. Everyone, even my parents whose first language is Spanish, fiercely repeated the speakers' inspiring words.

It’s my favorite thing: the people. Their support reminds me that our fight for climate justice isn’t always about the rallies. It’s also about connecting with each other: hanging out at a park, chatting over snacks, and sharing our stories.



Youth Climate Strike to #EndFossilFuels!

This September, the Idaho Climate Justice League showed Idaho Power and the world that young people are going to fight for their future and demand an end to fossil fuels! In solidarity with the global Fridays for Future movement, they rallied at the Capitol building, where they shared speeches and performed music, all to tell those in power to take action for local solar and climate justice. After that, they marched to Idaho Power and read from their open letter to CEO Lisa Grow, slamming the company's attacks on solar!

Testifying at the PUC to Save Idaho Solar!

Ava Porter, Boise High Senior

Testifying for the first time was terrifying. On top of my fear of public speaking I had to also face my fear of authority. As I sat there telling the PUC what they were doing wrong right to their faces an invigorating feeling shot through me. It was power. I knew in that moment that my words, my fellow youth activists’ words, were really powerful. The PUC knew that we were taking time out of our very busy lives to fight about something that we couldn’t even decide on. The purchase and profit of solar panels. The whole experience was such a learning moment because I now know how powerful my voice is. I now know that I can make a difference. **I have one last message for all teen activists out there that may be too afraid to speak up, or think that whatever they say doesn’t matter. It does. You can make a difference.**



A Year of Getting Outside—With All of You!

Amanda Reed, Chapter Organizer

Our Outings programs across Idaho have been picking up momentum! We've expanded the types of outings offered—this year, folks participated not only in picnics, nature walks, and hikes, but also in snowshoeing, cycling, caving, stargazing, and camping. It's been wonderful to bring folks together in our community, educate about key clean energy and wildlife recovery issues, and see many try out new outdoor activities for the first time! Our Outings programs' success this year is all thanks to our dedicated volunteer Outings Leaders. Check out their experiences leading outings below! (And email us at idaaho.chapter@sierraclub.org if you'd like to lead a trip of your own!)

Ending the Summer with a Picnic in the Park

Jennifer James, Volunteer Outings Leader

One of my greatest joys as a Volunteer Outings Leader is to lead OUTdoors Idaho events for the local LGBTQ+ community. As much fun as it is to lead and participate in general Outings, a special part of my heart is dedicated to creating a safe space for queer folks to build community and enjoy the great outdoors. One event in particular stands out for me: an end-of-summer sunset picnic at Lake Lowell. A group of us met up in the park for dinner, volleyball, card games, and conversation, all enjoying one of the last warm days of the year. As the sun began to set, we went down to the boat piers and quietly watched its red-and-golden glory slip over the horizon of the water. I was reminded that we can find natural beauty anywhere, even in the manicured recreational space of a park. **It truly felt like the end of a season, but also the beginning of new friendships and, hopefully, a place where all of us feel like we can safely belong.**



THIS IS A SAFE SPACE



Jennifer also helped plan & lead a Greebelt bike ride to Lucky Peak this summer & a fall hike for our OUTdoors Idaho program, as well as helping to lead our 1st post-COVID camping trip to the Bruneau Sand Dunes!

Thank you, Jennifer!



OUTdoors Idaho Snowshoeing! Apr. 2023



Idaho Sierra Club WFA Training! May 2023



Thousand Springs State Park Outing w/ Snake River Alliance! May 2023



OUTdoors ID Bike to Lucky Peak! July 2023

Caving at Eureka Caves!

Hailey Featherston, Volunteer Outings Leader

A year into my new journey in Idaho, I embarked on an adventure deep below the ground. I had never gone caving before that day, but it became an unforgettable experience. Two years later, I was presented with the opportunity to lead a trip through the Sierra Club, so what better time to share my newfound hobby with new adventurers! This was my chance to give back. Extensive planning led to me organizing a practice trip to make sure everything was set in stone. The big day arrived, and despite some nerves, **when we reached our destination, I saw echoes of my past self in the participants. The rush of joy from this unique experience was clear.** After thorough planning and safety checks, the trip was an absolute success, and it truly rocked!



Hailey!



Palouse Outings: Revitalized!

Liv Lampman, Volunteer Leader and Executive Committee Member

This year, the Palouse Group has been working to revitalize the local Outings program in the Moscow area. During and after COVID-19, we had a lapse in North Idaho events, with our most recent significant Outing being January 21st, 2023. The Snow Outing was a huge success, with folks from all walks of life attending and conversations with our partners at Friends of the Clearwater.

While I was hiking 600+ miles of the Pacific Crest Trail this summer, I was encouraged to get as many people out hiking as I could when I arrived back home. Being outdoors not only calms the soul, but it connects you to others, and can light a fire within to care about the conservation of wild places. With new staff available to help, the expertise of seasoned leaders, and my drive to get the local community out and enjoying nature—we did it!

Our Outing to Elk Creek Falls was a success, with conversations about edible mushrooms, symbiotic relationships, and the geology of the area. All in all, it was a great experience & I can't wait for our next hike. Please reach out with any questions or recommendations for our next adventure!



A Fall Hike to the Falls

Mac Cantrell & Janice Boughton, Volunteers

What is the newest night spot for mushrooms?
What is worth less than a queen and hard to hold on to?
Answers an the bottom!

You might know the answers to those riddles if you had been on the Sierra Club hike in North Idaho to Elk Creek Falls in October!

Brand new friends and old friends had great conversations while walking through beautiful forest on a sunny, glorious fall day.

And as if that wasn't enough, crazily colored mushrooms decided to put on a show. We saw club fungus, slippery jacks, ear fungi, elfin saddles, lobster mushrooms (and the Russula's which they transformed), witch's butter, and some beautiful translucent orange ones we had never seen before.

And then there were the three Elk Creek Falls, which would have made it a great hike by themselves. The trail was in perfect condition, the company was excellent and the sandwiches which the Sierra Club provided were delicious. This is a foray we should repeat next fall!

1) Club Fungus 2) Slippery Jack



Mac



Become a Monthly Donor

Monthly giving is the easiest way to support the great conservation work the Idaho Sierra Club is doing! Monthly support at any level provides reliable funding to help the Club work on the local projects you care about.

To become a local monthly donor visit the **DONATE** page on the Idaho Chapter Sierra Club website: www.sierraclub.org/idaho

Preserve the Future

Not everyone can make a large gift to protect the environment during their lifetime, but you can preserve the environment for generations to come by remembering Sierra Club in your will. There are many gift options available. We can even help plan your gift to our local Idaho Chapter.

For more information and confidential assistance, contact the Sierra Club Gift Planning Program by **emailing** gift.planning@sierraclub.org or **calling** (800) 932-4270.

The Lake Coeur d'Alene-Spokane River Watershed Needs Your Help!

Eric Walsh, Executive Committee Member

The Coeur d'Alene and Spokane River watersheds were not immune to the cultural beliefs of Euro-Americans' 19th-century Manifest Destiny. These forces converged on the region, leaving a lasting impact on the area: mining, logging, dam-building, and other polluting industries.

Consequently, the Lake Coeur d'Alene-Spokane River watershed is now a place of "superlatives" including one of the nation's most significant and most contentious Superfund sites, PCB pollution, and destabilized watershed forests.



Photo credit: Visit Idaho

In addition, the climate crisis is impacting the watershed with changes in the hydrograph, flooding risk (and mine waste movement), and forest fires.

Since the 1970s, the Sierra Club, through its Spokane Group, North Idaho Group, and then Upper Columbia River Group, has been a leader in protecting and restoring this watershed. Prior to 2009, the Idaho Panhandle was part of the Upper Columbia River (UCR) Group, which was part of the Northern Rockies Chapter. In 2009, the Sierra Club's National Board approved redrawing chapter boundaries to comport with state boundaries, thereby replacing the Cascade Chapter and Northern Rockies Chapter with the Washington and Idaho State Chapters. The result has been members formerly with the UCR Group in Idaho are no longer part of a Sierra Club coalition actively addressing the issues of the Coeur d'Alene Lake watershed.

The Sierra Club is committed to building capacity in the Idaho Panhandle to address PCB, heavy metal, nutrient, and climate change impacts on the watershed. The Washington Chapter has been working on some of these issues for years, but they are seeking to build a larger coalition. The objective is to establish a two-state committee to enhance the ability to create and maintain a sustainable and healthy watershed. We are asking for Idaho Chapter members to rejoin the coalition and implement solutions to ensure the values of Lake Coeur d'Alene are passed onto the next generations.

If you want to work on the two-state committee, please let us know! Email idaho.chapter@sierraclub.org to express your interest. In the near future, we will meet in Coeur d'Alene to discuss the next steps. Please plan to participate and be part of the efforts to keep our Lake a cultural and natural icon.

WE ♥ OUR VOLUNTEERS!

Our lovely volunteers have been the backbone of our work this past year! They have tabled at various local festivals, collected hundreds of petition signatures, led Outings, helped at events and film screenings, planned for our Wild & Scenic Film Festival, helped us move from our flooded office space to our new one, and more! As a small staff team, we wouldn't be able to do the work we do without our great volunteers. We're so thankful for all the hard work they do!



Volunteer Spotlight: Liv Lampman!

Liv has been such an amazing volunteer leader for the Idaho Chapter these past few years. She has played so many different roles to support this organization: helping keep our social media up-to-date when we were under-staffed, joining the board and serving on a staff hiring committee to select our chapter's first Communications Assistant, spending countless hours on the ExCom Nominations Committee, ensuring our Wild & Scenic Film Festival in Moscow goes off without a hitch, helping revive Outings up north, and playing the role of Secretary and ExCom Coordinator, which involved wrangling us before each ExCom meeting to coordinate the agenda, taking detailed notes at every single meeting, and so much more. We're going to miss having Liv on our team as she steps down from the ExCom, and we wish her the best in this next chapter of her life and career! *—Jenna Duffin, Chair*



"What are we going to do without Liv?! She has really served as a reliable backbone for our ExCom and chapter as a whole, helping keep everything organized and making sure various tasks all get done. She is such a joy to be around and work with, and has such an admirable work ethic and adventurous spirit. I'll miss seeing your big smile on our calls, Liv!" *—Lisa*

"Liv, you will be sorely missed. Albeit I have only worked with Liv at the Sierra Club a short time I have worked with her in her job and enjoyed her knowledge and ability to work with the youth at our Nimiipuu Canoe Site. She has a great attitude and is willing to assist and help out when things need to be done. She is a very reliable person and committed to the causes. Hopefully she can continue to work with our group in some capacity. Thank you Liv!!!!" *—Julian*

"Liv, your willingness to help w/ anything that's thrown your way is really special, and we can't thank you enough for it! You were one of the first folks I met at the org (via the hiring process and while I got settled in!), and your kindness and tenacity have always shone through. Thanks for all you do, and wherever life takes you, I know you'll continue doing awesome things!" *—Vienne*

"Liv, I feel so lucky that I was able to join our staff team with you on ExComm and as a volunteer! You've been so wonderful to work with, especially in coordinating Palouse-area outings the past couple of months. You do an incredible job of keeping everything organized and on-track, and I just so appreciate the energy you bring onto every meeting. Wishing you the best for the future!!" *—Amanda*

"Liv steps in and does what needs to be done with little fanfare-even if it's not the most attractive job. Thanks Liv!" *—Al*

"Liv, your presence and your work has transformed the whole feeling of our Palouse Group's Outings. Your enthusiasm and competence as we've worked together preparing for, and leading the winter snow Outing and October Elk Creek Falls hike made those events relaxed and memorable for everyone involved. We're going to miss you!" *—Mac*

"Thanks to Liv for all that she has done for our state chapter. She has been so valuable in our communications and in keeping notes for our meetings. We have been so lucky to have her. Thanks!" *—Mitch*

"Liv, thank you for consistently supporting the Sierra Club over the past years. Your commitment to note-taking, meeting organizing, and overall volunteering is admirable. Thanks for being another North Idaho voice in these conversations. Good luck in your future adventures, you'll surely excel!" *—Ian*

"Liv, you are a RockStar! Working with you on ExCom has been a pleasure. You are a thoughtful and thorough person that is always dependable. Thank you for all the work you have done, the Sierra Club is much better for it. I wish you all the best!" *—Eric Walsh*

"Deep gratitude to you, Liv, for the generous and skillful documentation of our nominating committee processes in 2022. Your talents and generosity of effort are impactful and memorable." *—Eileen*

"Thank you so much for all you do! Your dedication to Sierra is pretty special." *—Lynne*

Our Team Has Doubled! Welcome, Amanda & Julian!

Jenna Duffin, Idaho Chapter Chair

We're so excited to have two new staff members join our team this year! **Amanda** joins us as our new Chapter Organizer, helping with volunteer onboarding and management, supporting all of our various programs & campaigns, and ultimately building our overall organizing capacity across the state! **Julian** is our part-time Wildlife & Lands Coordinator based in the Moscow area, and brings years of expertise around environmental activism and Native treaty rights advocacy to help support our wildlife and land protection efforts in Idaho! Get to know them more below.

Amanda Reed (She/Her) Chapter Organizer



Amanda was born and raised in Spokane, WA and began to get involved with grassroots organizing work through the Sunrise Movement and March for Our Lives. In college, she majored in English, Spanish Studies, and Psychology and interned with the Citizens' Climate Lobby, organized an educational equity mentoring program, and launched a research project to encourage allyship behavior toward LGBTQ+ college students. In her free time, Amanda loves to read and spend time outside hiking, camping, and paddle boarding!



Julian Matthews (He/Him) Wildlife & Lands Coordinator



Julian is a Nez Perce tribal member and grew up in Coeur d'Alene, and now lives in Pullman, WA. He served in the U.S. Navy for 6 years before moving on to get his BA in Finance, and a Masters in Public Administration. Over the past 20 years, Julian has worked with a number of Tribal groups, families and individuals and other NGOs on environmental issues in the Pacific Northwest. He is passionate about and committed to ensuring that the youth have the ability to hunt, fish and gather into the future.

Welcome to the Board, Sherlyn!

Sherlyn was just appointed to our Idaho Chapter Executive Committee to fill a vacant seat, and we are so excited to have her serve! Sherlyn has extensive leadership experience and is an incredible community advocate and volunteer. She's a youth leader in the Idaho Climate Justice League, helping plan for and co-lead meetings, a Wassmuth youth leader advocating for human rights and a certified Narrative 4 Coordinator, allowing her to co-facilitate story exchanges across the globe. She's also bilingual, and uses her Spanish to spread awareness to the Spanish speaking community about critical issues affecting us in Idaho. Finally, Sherlyn is a native Idahoan raised outdoors, whether it's camping in the mountains of Pine every summer, swimming in Quinn's pond, or biking on the Greenbelt!



Your Idaho Sierra Club

Executive Committee

Jenna Duffin, Chair

Mitch Long, Events Lead

Sherlyn Mesillas Becerra, At-Large Member

Al Poplawsky, Vice Chair & Palouse Group Chair

Crystal Rain, Political Lead

Ian Schlater, Nominations Committee Member

Liv Lampman, Executive Committee Coordinator

Eric Walsh, Tribal Outreach Advisor

Chapter Staff

Lisa Young, Chapter Director

Vienne Aberle, Comms & Adv. Coordinator

Amanda Reed, Chapter Organizer

Julian Matthews, Wildlife & Lands Coordinator

Get in Touch

idaho.chapter@sierraclub.org

PO Box 552, Boise, ID 83701

www.sierraclub.org/idaho

Instagram: @IdahoSierraClub

Facebook: @Sierra.Club.Idaho.Chapter

Some of our staff + ExCom Members came together in Moscow this October for a Board Retreat!



Vote for Your Top ExCom (Board) Candidates!



All Sierra Club members in the Idaho Chapter are eligible to vote in this election for our local Chapter Board (Executive Committee). **Cast your ballot by December 31 to vote for three (3) candidates.** To vote, head to our website www.sierraclub.org/idaho and follow the instructions listed there. You'll need your Sierra Club Member ID # printed on the back of this newsletter.

Emily Iskin | Boise

Emily has spent countless hours exploring and studying the West's wild places. Her love of the outdoors started with adventures and bloomed into a career dedicated to understanding, protecting, and restoring river ecosystems. She has a PhD in fluvial geomorphology from Colorado State University where she studied natural floodplain habitat and large wood transport and storage in Yosemite and Rocky Mountain National Parks. She is currently a Postdoctoral Research Fellow investigating the ecological changes associated with beaver restoration. Science provides new insights and techniques in these efforts, but Emily believes that sharing science with the public is an impactful way to build stewardship and inspire change. She is a trained science communicator and visual artist committed to sharing science through illustration and graphic design. Emily would like to use her knowledge and skills to promote the goals of the Idaho Chapter and engage the community around western ecosystem issues.

Jennifer James | Boise

Jennifer has lived most of her life in the Pacific Northwest and feels a deep personal connection to the outdoors. She's a strong proponent of making the wilderness welcoming and accessible to everyone, and believes that building a sense of wonder and appreciation for the environment will inspire the drive to protect it. She's volunteered with nonprofits like Planned Parenthood and the Food Bank for years, and has recently been volunteering with the Idaho Sierra Club, including building its OUTdoors Idaho LGBTQ+ Outings program by leading a number of those events. She enjoys building community in places many consider traditionally inaccessible or hostile, and teaching others how to safely and sustainably enjoy the outdoors. Professionally, Jennifer works in the tech industry as a Product Manager. She would like to join the Executive Committee as a formal extension of her existing support and commitment to the Sierra Club's mission and vision.

Anika Miller | Ketchum

As a young person deeply concerned by the climate outlook, Anika has dedicated her career to making a positive impact in the clean energy sector. We are just beginning a complex and rapidly evolving energy transition that is critical to meeting our climate goals. As an engineer in the solar industry, she has the privilege of working on projects that promote both sustainability and community resilience through cutting-edge technologies. The most fulfilling aspects of her work are projects in collaboration with the Nez Perce tribe that aim to both restore a way of life and conserve our waterways. Her work experience has reinforced her belief in the need for a safe, sustainable, and equitable future for all. Anika is excited about the opportunity to join the Idaho Sierra Club Executive Committee to continue driving positive change within our communities!

Kelly Richmond | Boise

Kelly has been hiking, camping, skiing, and getting outdoors her entire life. Environmental stewardship and community service are values instilled in her by her father, and have always been an integral part of her life. Kelly served on the Board of Directors Executive Committee as the Treasurer for the Friends of the Owyhee for the past two years, managing their accounting activities (budget, taxes, etc). She has a certification in grant accounting and over 20 years of experience in nonprofit accounting, and has also completed board training with the Conservation Lands Foundation and the Boise Chamber of Commerce. These skills will help the organization's future and growth. She is also a member of the LGBTQIA+ community and passionate about getting a more diverse community outdoors. Kelly greatly appreciates the Sierra Club's reverence for honoring Indigenous land. She has volunteered for many causes promoting inclusion, equity, and justice in the environmental movement.



Idaho Chapter Sierra Club
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Boise, ID 83701

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Friday, Jan 12th

The Egyptian Theatre
Boise, ID

Friday, Jan 19th

The Kenworthy Centre
Moscow, ID

**Mark your calendar for our 2024
Wild & Scenic Film Festival!**

Enjoy brilliant short films, engage
with local community members, and
have the chance to win cool prizes
from the Idaho Sierra Club and local
businesses!

Reserve your tickets today!
www.sierraclub.org/idaho